

TF NATION

2017

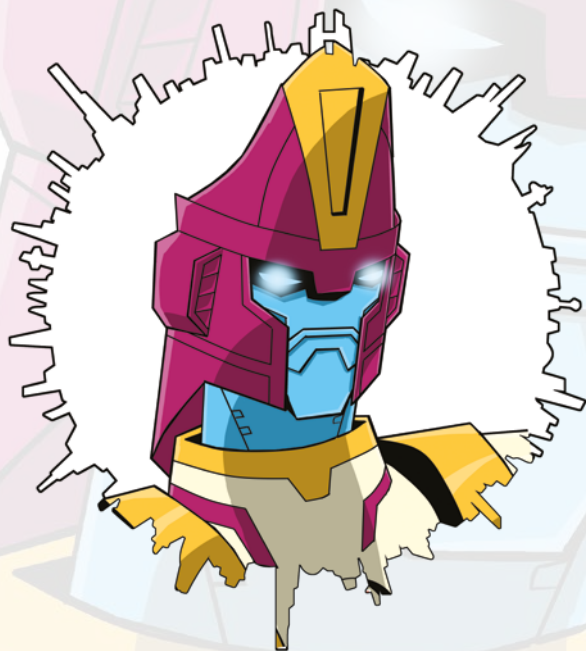




PRESENTS:



TRIAL & ERROR



GREETINGS, HUMANS! I AM VECTOR PRIME... OR AS THEY REFER TO ME IN THIS PARTICULAR UNIVERSAL STREAM, "VECTOR PRIMA-VECTORUM." A TRIFLE GRANDIOSE FOR MY LIKING, BUT I STRIVE TO RESPECT LOCAL CUSTOMS ON MY TRAVELS THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE!

IT HAS RECENTLY COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THE LACK OF RESOLUTION AFFORDED TO CERTAIN EVENTS IN THE MALGUS CLUSTER HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF SOME IRE FOR YOUR KIND. I ENDEAVOUR NOW TO PUT YOUR MINDS AT EASE, AS I BRING YOU THIS LOST TALE OF ANSWERS, ENDINGS, AND NEW BEGINNINGS. BUT BE AWARE: THE MULTIVERSE IS A WINDING RIVER, WITH MANY BRANCHES AND TRIBUTARIES THAT BREAK OFF AND RETURN TO THE WHOLE AS THEY WEND THEIR WAY THROUGH ETERNITY--AND THIS STORY IS BUT ONE OF THOSE BRANCHES, JUST ONE VERSION OF HOW EVENTS UNFOLDED IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED THE RETURN OF OPTIMUS PRIME AND THE ALLSPARK TO CYBERTRON...

DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE
OF CYBERTRON.
NOW.

ROOAAAARRR!

I KNEW IT!!
I KNEW THERE
WERE MONSTERS
DOWN HERE!

SARI SUMDAC:
HALF HUMAN/HALF
CYBERTRONIAN.

BUMBLEBEE:
LITTLE 'BOT,
BIG MOUTH.

BULKHEAD:
BIG 'BOT,
BIGGER HEART.

CHAPTER 1

LOOSE ENDS



"...FROM ALPHA TRION!"

THE METROPLEX, CITY OF IACON. 24 HOURS EARLIER.

I HAVE ASKED YOU HERE TODAY...

THE HIGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

...TO DISCUSS A MATTER OF *GRAVE IMPORTANCE*. THAT THE *ALLSPARK* HAS BEEN RETURNED TO CYBERTRON AFTER THESE MANY MILLIONS OF STELLAR CYCLES IS A CAUSE FOR *GREAT CELEBRATION*...

...AND YET, IT IS *INCOMPLETE*. MADE UP ONLY OF WHAT PIECES WERE ABLE TO BE RECOVERED FROM EARTH.

ALPHA TRION:
AS WISE AS
HE IS OLD.

IN ORDER TO
MAKE THE ALLSPARK
WHOLE AGAIN--

--TO RESTORE ITS
ABILITY TO BIRTH
NEW LIFE UNTO
CYBERTRON--

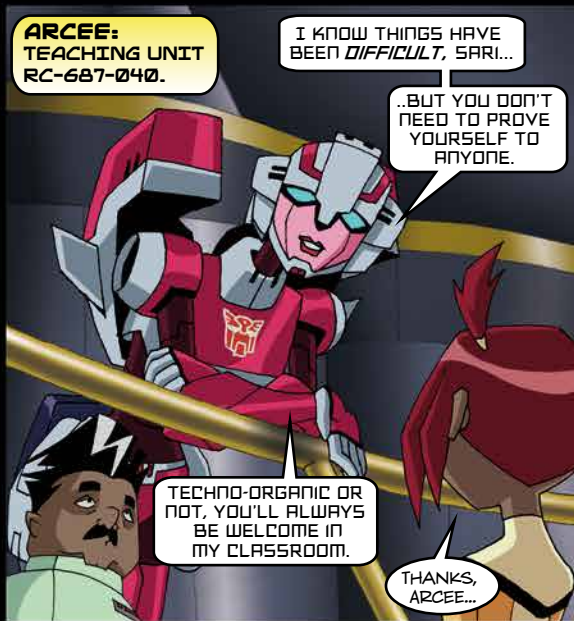
--IT MUST BE RETURNED TO
THE FOUNTAINHEAD, DEEP WITHIN
CYBERTRON, FROM WHICH IT
ORIGINALLY *SPRANG FORTH*...

...THE
WELL
OF ALL
SPARKS.

I AM TOLD YOU HAVE
LONG HAD A *CONNECTION* TO
THE ALLSPARK, AND IT IS FOR
THAT REASON I ASK *YOU* TO
UNDERTAKE THIS MISSION...

...SARI SUMDAC.





"...AND *OTHER* URGENT
MATTERS DEMAND
MY ATTENTION..."

"IT'S THE MOMENT *ALL*
OF CYBERTRON HAS BEEN
WAITING FOR!"

"SENTINEL MAGNUS PRESENTS...
THE SCOURGE OF CYBERTRON...
THE GREAT SLAG-MAKER..."

**FORTRESS MAXIMUS,
HEADQUARTERS OF
THE ELITE GUARD.**

**SENTINEL
MAGNUS:**
ACTING RULER
OF CYBERTRON.

WELL, WHADDAYA
THINK, OPTIMUS? PRETTY
GREAT, RIGHT?

**OPTIMUS
PRIME:**
ACTING
POLITE.

...

...ARE YOU *SURE*
ABOUT THIS, SENTINEL?
TURNING MEGATRON'S
TRIAL INTO SUCH A...

...A *PUBLIC*
SPECTACLE...

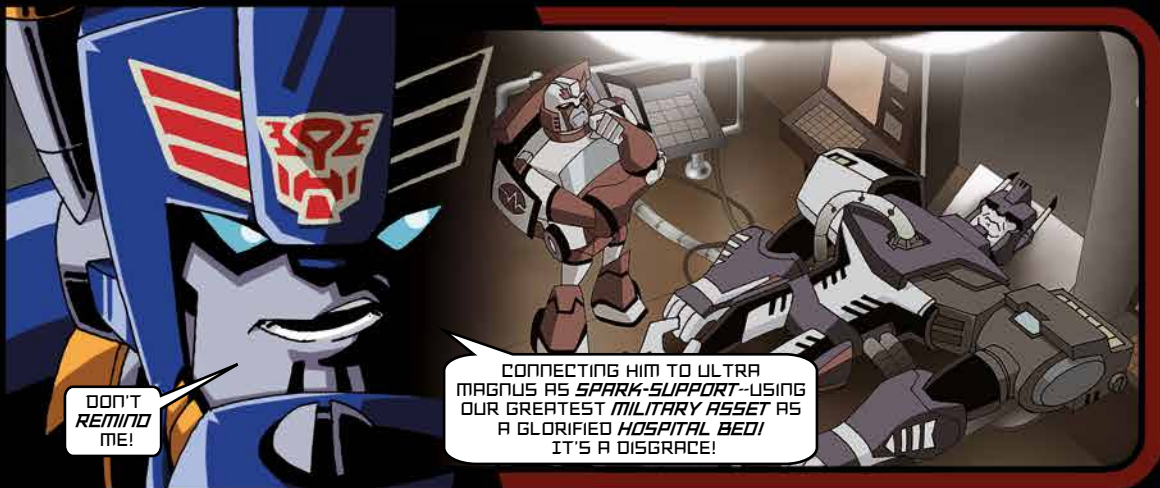
...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S
LIKELY TO ATTRACT
DECEPTICON ATTENTION?
AND WITH *OMEGA*
SUPREME OUT OF
COMMISSION...

"...*MEGATRON ON TRIAL!*"

"BY THE GRACE OF SENTINEL MAGNUS,
THIS *ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME* EVENT IS OPEN
TO *PUBLIC VIEWING!* WATCH LIVE AS THE
GREAT SENTINEL MAGNUS HIMSELF LEADS
THE PROSECUTION AGAINST THE INFAMOUS
LEADER OF THE DECEPTICONS!"

"THIS DIXOSOL AT THE JEKKA
AMPHITHEATRE! PROTOFORMS
WATCH FOR FREE!"

...GATRON!



DON'T
REMIND
ME!

CONNECTING HIM TO ULTRA
MAGNUS AS *SPARK-SUPPORT*--USING
OUR GREATEST *MILITARY ASSET* AS
A GLORIFIED *HOSPITAL BED*!
IT'S A DISGRACE!



IF YOU ASK *ME*, THE
KINDEST THING WOULD
BE TO *UNPLUG* ULTRA
MAGNUS... LET THE OLD
COOT JOIN THE WELL
OF ALL SPARKS WITH
SOME *DIGNITY*!



WHICH WOULD *JUST SO
HAPPEN* TO LEAVE *YOU*
IN CHARGE OF CYBERTRON,
OF COURSE.



WELL, *SOMEONE'S* GOT TO DO THE JOB,
OPTIMUS! IF NOT *ME*, THEN WHO?

A *REPAIR-BOT*
LIKE *YOU*?



HAI!

"OPTIMUS MAGNUS!" OH,
THAT'S *RICHI*! THAT'S A
REAL SERVO-SLAPPER!

YEAH.

FUNNY.



ANYWAY! I DIDN'T
CALL YOU HERE TO
TRADE *JOKES!*

COME ON, I'VE GOT
JUST THE THING TO
REASSURE YOU...

THERE SHE IS, OPTIMUS... MY
POWERMASTER ARMOUR!

DURABYLLIUM-STEEL CONSTRUCTION, FULLY
FLIGHT-CAPABLE, TWIN PARTICLE BEAM CANNONS,
USER-SENSITIVE *ELECTRONIC PAINT*...

...MORE THAN A MATCH FOR *ANY*
DECEPTICON *DUMB* ENOUGH TO SHOW
THEIR FACE TOMORROW!

IT'S... VERY *IMPRESSIVE*,
SENTINEL, BUT I'M STILL
NOT SURE, EVEN ALLOWING
MEGATRON TO *APPEAR* IN
PUBLIC SEEMS RISKY...

OPTIMUS, YOU *WORRY*
TOO MUCH! I'VE GOT
SOMETHING *SPECIAL*
PLANNED FOR
MEGATRON!

OH?

JUST A LITTLE
TRICK I PICKED
UP ON EARTH!

I WOULDN'T
WANT TO
SPOIL THE
SURPRISE!

**TRYPTICON PRISON,
CITY OF KAON.
FORMER
DECEPTICON
CAPITAL.**



SO, I'VE BEEN
VONDERING...



...GIVEN ZAT ZHOSE
THREE-RING REJECTS'
RESCUE PLAN
FAILED...

...HOW ARE YE
GETTING OUT
OF HERE?!

BLITZWING:
THREE-IN-ONE
VILLAIN.

LUGNUT:
LOYALLER
THAN THOU.

MEGATRON:
BIDING HIS
TIME.



SHOCKWAVE:
COLD AND
CALCULATING.



THE TIME IS NEARLY UPON US.



EVENING ON CYBERTRON.
THE FOOT OF
THE METROPLEX.

THIS TUNNEL WILL TAKE YOU
TO THE WELL OF ALL SPARKS.
BE *WARY*... YOU WALK A
PATHWAY THAT HAS NOT BEEN
TROD FOR MANY MILLIONS
OF STELLAR CYCLES.

AND ON
THAT REASSURING
NOTE...



WELL, I
GUESS THIS IS
GOODBYE...

SARI... I
JUST WANT
TO SAY...

NO
MATTER WHAT THE
ALLSPARK HELPS YOU
LEARN ABOUT
YOURSELF...



...YOU WILL *ALWAYS*
BE MY DAUGHTER. THAT
WILL *NEVER* CHANGE.
YOU ARE MORE THAN
I EVER COULD HAVE
WANTED... MORE THAN
I EVER NEEDED
YOU TO BE...

...AND I... AM
SO PROUD TO BE
YOUR FATHER.



I SEE, I'LL
BE RIGHT
THERE.

THANKS,
DAD.

⇒SNFF⇒

I
LOVE
YOU.



THE TIME IS NOW,
MY FRIENDS. I MUST
LEAVE YOU.

NO SWEAT,
A3! WE'LL BE BACK
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT!

HOURS LATER.

OH MY *GOSH*, HOW BIG IS THIS STUPID PLANET ANYWAY?! WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR *FOREVER*!

OH *WOW*! HEY GUYS, LOOK AT *THIS*!

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A MURAL!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL ABOUT LIFE ON CYBERTRON WAY BACK IN ANCIENT TIMES... OVER *SEVEN BILLION* STELLAR CYCLES AGO!

SO WHAT'S IT SAY?

OH, UH, WELL, I CAN'T READ THE *WORDS*... BUT I KNOW THE *STORY*!

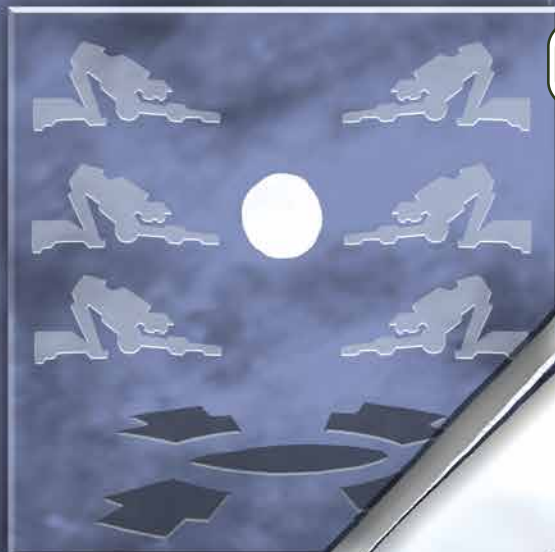
OH, GREAT, A *HISTORY LESSON*!

"THE LEGENDS SAY THAT ONE DAY, WHEN CYBERTRON WAS STILL YOUNG, THE ALLSPARK ROSE OUT OF THE WELL OF ALL SPARKS AND *BREATHED LIFE* INTO THE PLANET."

"NOBODY KNOWS WHO *MADE* THE ALLSPARK, OR *WHY*, BUT EACH SPARK IN EXISTENCE *CAME* FROM IT, AND *IT* CAME FROM THE WELL. SO THAT'S WHY, WHEN A SPARK IS *EXTINGUISHED*, WE CALL IT..."

"JOINING THE WELL OF ALL SPARKS!"

"*RIGHT*!"



"THE EARLY TRANSFORMERS WERE PRIMITIVES WHO *WORSHIPPED* THE ALLSPARK--THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO *CONTROL* ITS POWER."

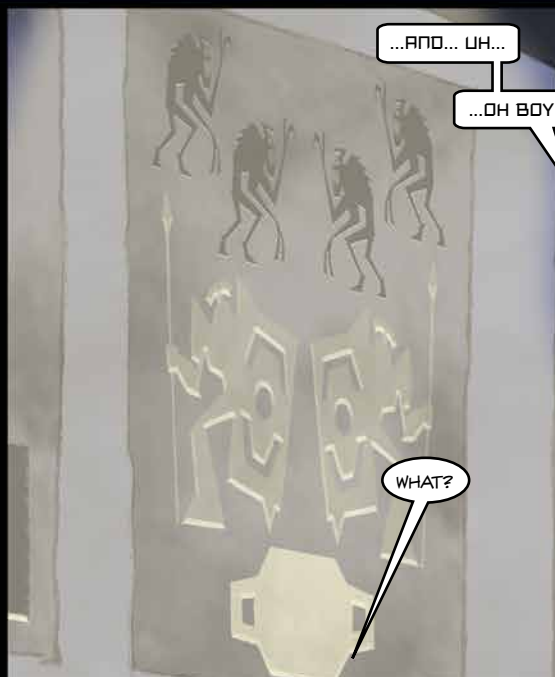
"BUT THAT ALL CHANGED THE DAY A MYSTERIOUS *HAMMER* FELL OUT OF THE *SKY*."

"NOBODY KNEW WHERE *IT* CAME FROM, EITHER... BUT IT WAS A *WEAPON*, AND IN THOSE DAYS, THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON BELONGED TO THE MOST POWERFUL *WARRIOR*!"

"THE STRONGEST OF THE PRIMITIVES TOOK THE HAMMER FOR HIMSELF, AND EVER SINCE THAT DAY, IT'S BEEN THE *SYMBOL* OF THE LEADER OF THE AUTOBOTS."

"YOU MEAN--?"

"THAT'S RIGHT--THE *MAGNUS HAMMER*! THAT WARRIOR USED IT TO FORGE A *CONTAINER* FOR THE ALLSPARK THAT ALLOWED ITS POWER TO BE CONTROLLED..."



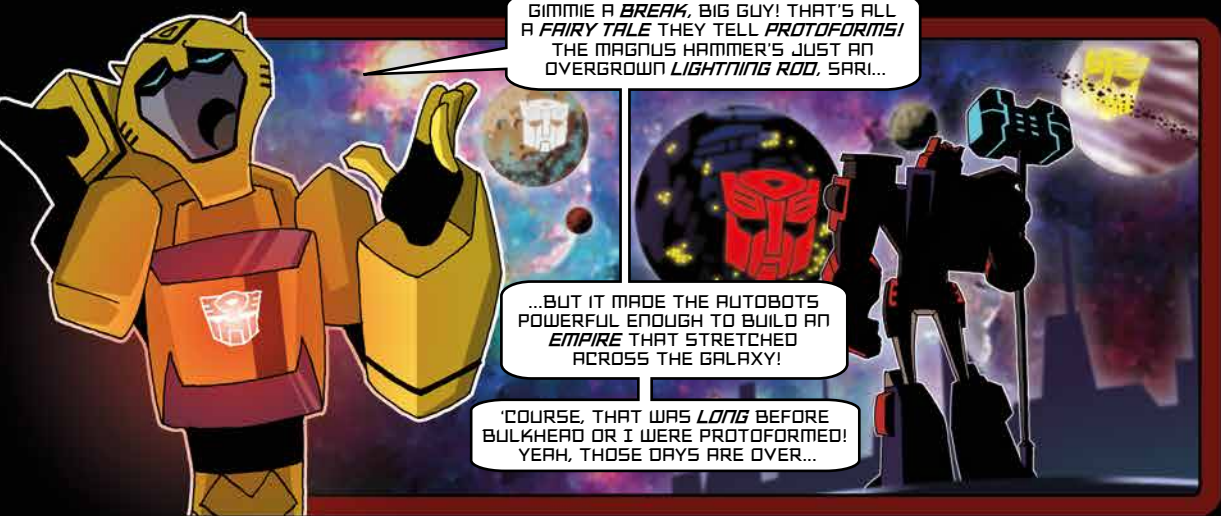
...AND... UH...

...OH BOY...

WHAT?



...WELL, HE... UH, HE ALSO BUILT THE *CENTURION DROIDS* TO DEFEND THE WELL AGAINST THE *MONSTERS* THAT LIVE DOWN HERE! I FORGOT ALL *ABOUT* THAT PART!



GIMMIE A *BREAK*, BIG GUY! THAT'S ALL A *FAIRY TALE* THEY TELL *PROTOFORMS*! THE MAGNUS HAMMER'S JUST AN OVERGROWN *LIGHTNING ROD*, SARI...

...BUT IT MADE THE AUTOBOTS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BUILD AN *EMPIRE* THAT STRETCHED ACROSS THE GALAXY!

'COURSE, THAT WAS *LONG* BEFORE BULKHEAD OR I WERE *PROTOFORMED*! YEAH, THOSE DAYS ARE OVER...



"...THOUGH NOT EVERYBODY TOOK IT *WELL*! IF MEGATRON HAD HIS WAY, HE'D USE THE ALLSPARK TO START THE WHOLE THING UP AGAIN..."

"...ONLY THIS TIME, WITH *HIM* IN CHARGE!"



WELL, I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT *DECEPTICONS* RIGHT NOW... IT'S *MONSTERS* THAT GIVE ME THE SURGES!

WERE YOU *LISTENING* TO ME? IT'S ALL A LOAD OF *SCRAP*! FAKE! *MADE UP*!



"MONSTERS," ARE YOU FOR *REAL*? THE MOST DANGEROUS THING DOWN *HERE* IS U--



--UUUWAGH!!



HAHAHAHA!
CALM DOWN, BUMBLEBEE,
IT'S ONLY A HARMLESS
LITTLE RAT!



R-HEH-HEH...
YEAH! OF COURSE
IT IS!



IT'S
LIKE I
SAID...

WAIT A MINUTE...
WHAT WAS THAT RAT
RUNNING FROM...?



GARROWWILL

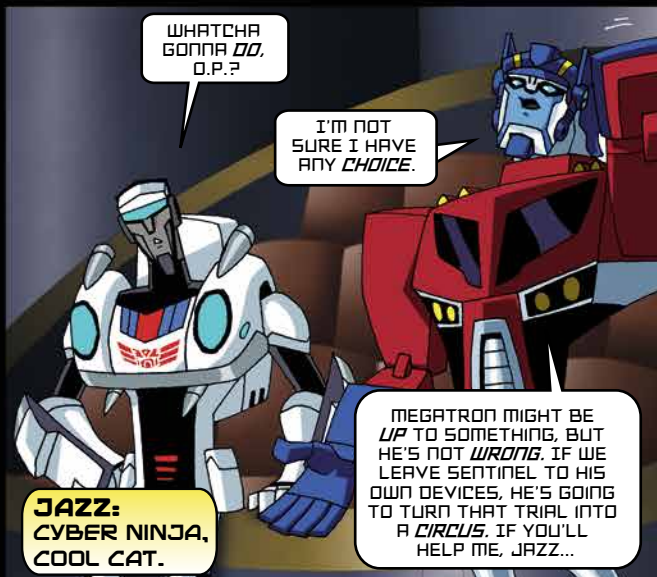
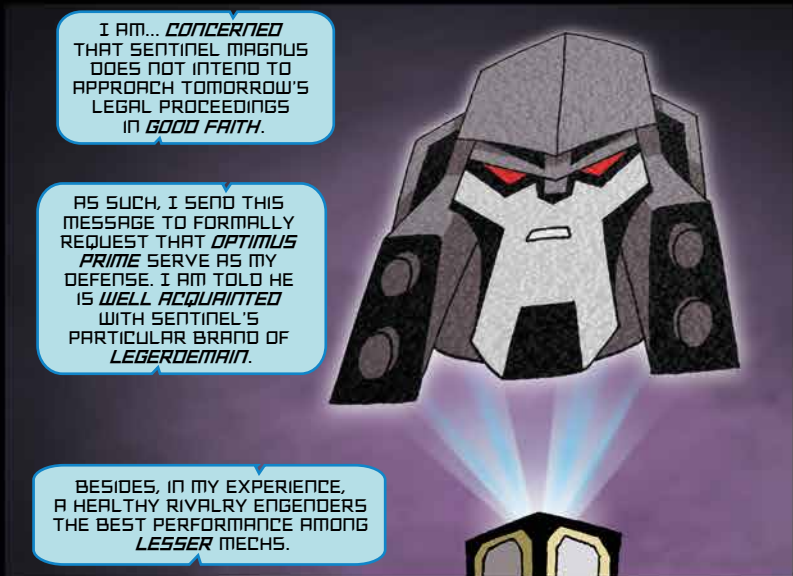
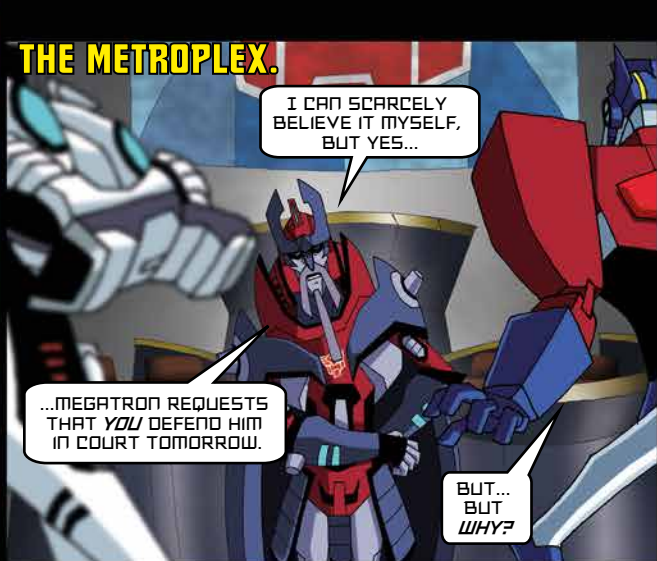
THERE'S
NOTHING...
DANGEROUS...



...DOWN...

...HERE?

ROOAAAARRR!



FORTRESS MAXIMUS.

IS ALL IN
READINESS FOR
TOMORROW?

YES, YES,
EVERYTHING'S
BEEN PREPARED.



AND JUST WHEN I THINK IT CAN'T GET ANY
WORSE, *OPTIMUS--OPTIMUS*, OF ALL 'BOTS--
SHOWS UP WITH MEGATRON AS HIS
PRISONER! I DON'T KNOW *HOW* HE DID IT...



...BUT TOMORROW, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE
MEGATRON *EXACTLY* WHAT HE DESERVES, AND
I'M GOING TO SHOW THIS WHOLE LOUSY
PLANET WHY I DESERVE TO BE MAGNUS!

WHAT HAVE I *TOLD YOU* ABOUT
BARGING IN HERE WITHOUT *KNOCKING*?!



APOLOGIES, SIR! BUT ALPHA TRION
HAS SENT WORD OF A *CHANGE IN*
PLANS FOR THE TRIAL TOMORROW!

IT HAD *BETTER BE*.
THIS OPERATION--

DON'T VENT THAT
EXHAUST AT ME! I WANT
THIS TO HAPPEN JUST
AS MUCH AS *YOU* DO!
MY APPROVAL
RATINGS ARE IN THE
WASTE DISPOSAL!



AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE *DONE* FOR
THESE *INGRATES*... THESE 'BOTS
WOULDN'T KNOW A GOOD MAGNUS IF
HE *BIT THEM* ON THE *AFTERBURNER*!

SENTINEL
MAGNUS,
SIR!

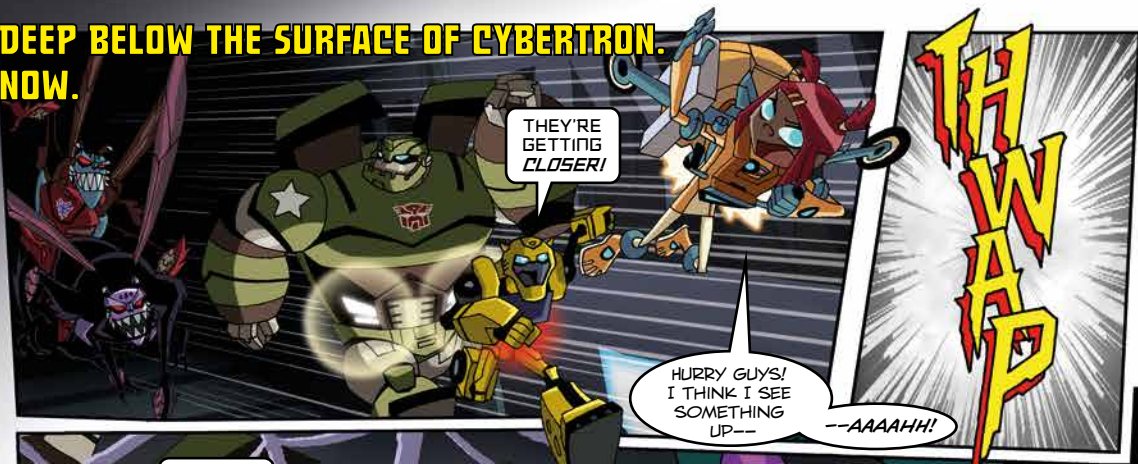


BACK!

HE'S GOING TO
WHAT?!



DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE OF CYBERTRON.
NOW.



THEY'RE
GETTING
CLOSER!

HURRY GUYS!
I THINK I SEE
SOMETHING
UP--

--AAAHH!



SORRY.
MY BAD.

MMM,
CAUGHT LIKE
A COUPLE OF
CYBER-FLIES
IN MY WEB!

LONG TIME NO
SEE, SISTER.

WASPINATOR:
HAS PLANS.

BLACKARACHNIA:
HOT, POISONOUS,
AND DEADLY.



BLACKARACHNIA?!

THE ONE
AND ONLY.

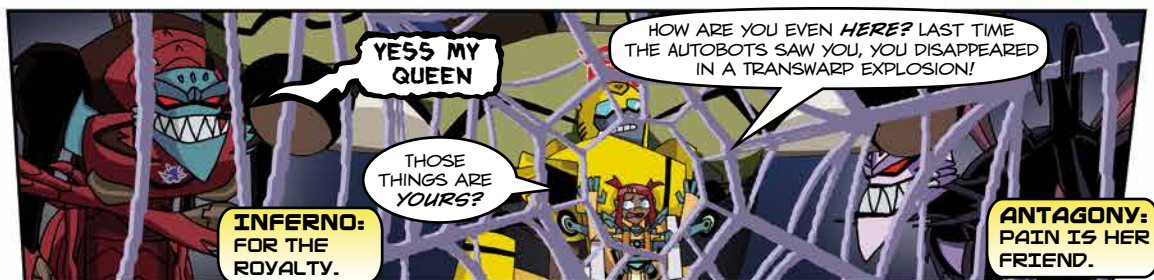
LIKE THE NEW COLOURS?
AFTER ALL, A QUEEN HAS
TO LOOK HER BEST...



...FOR HER
SUBJECTS.



ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, BABIES?



YESS MY
QUEEN

THOSE
THINGS ARE
YOURS?

INFERNO:
FOR THE
ROYALTY.

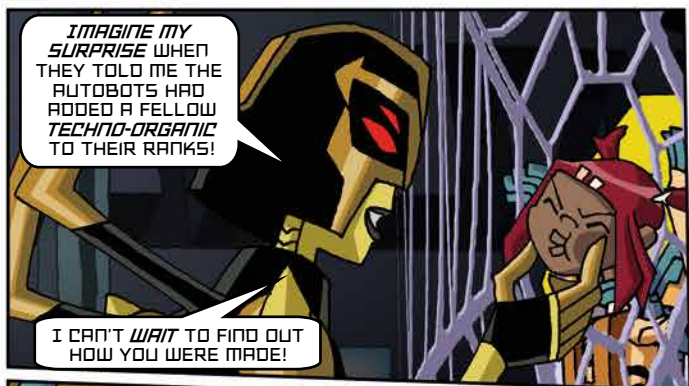
HOW ARE YOU EVEN *HERE*? LAST TIME
THE AUTOBOTS SAW YOU, YOU DISAPPEARED
IN A TRANSWARP EXPLOSION!

ANTAGONY:
PAIN IS HER
FRIEND.



I MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN
SPACE ON A PRIMITIVE WORLD--

--BUT IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY FOR A GIRL
WITH *MY* INGENUITY TO USE THE
REMAINING TRANSWARP ENERGY
INSIDE *WASPINATOR* TO TRANSMIT
A MESSAGE TO THE DECEPTICONS.



*IMAGINE MY
SURPRISE* WHEN
THEY TOLD ME THE
AUTOBOTS HAD
ADDED A FELLOW
TECHNO-ORGANIC
TO THEIR RANKS!

I CAN'T *WAIT* TO FIND OUT
HOW YOU WERE MADE!

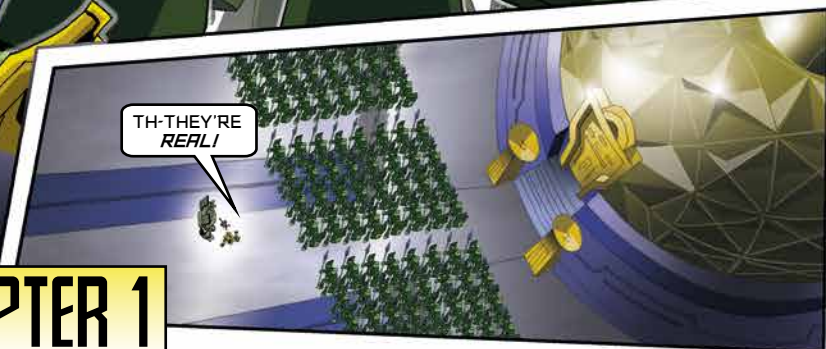
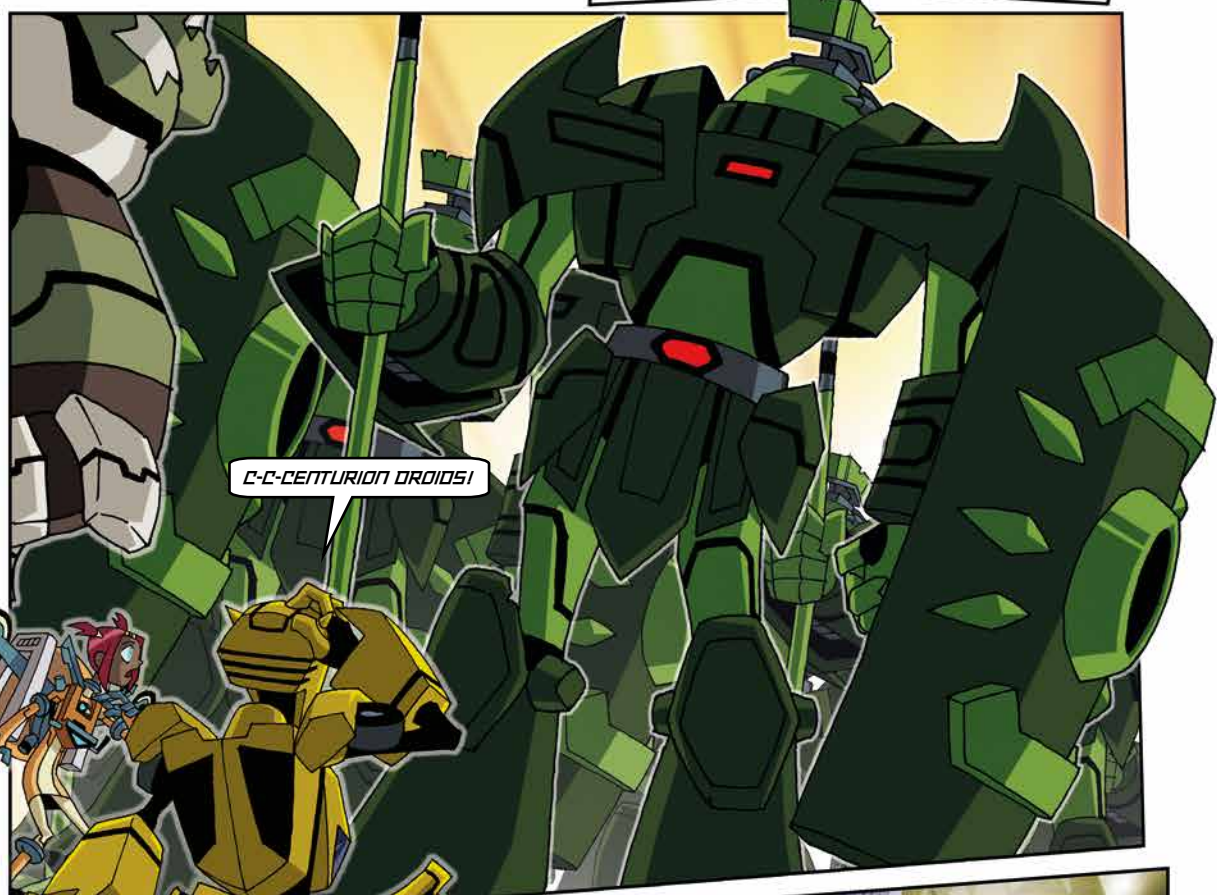
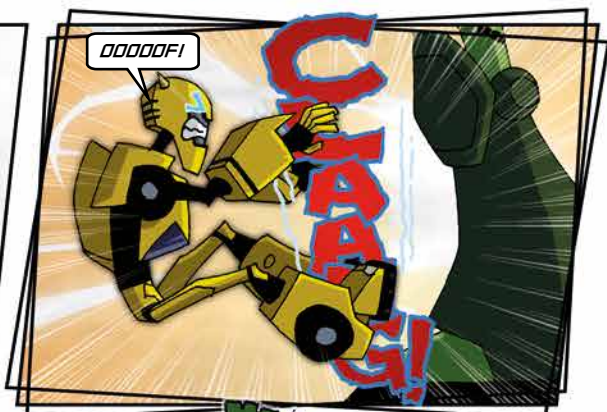


YOU... YOU
COULD *DO*
THAT?



OF COURSE!
ONCE I *SLICE YOU
OPEN* AND LEARN
ALL YOUR
SECRETS...

...I'LL BE ABLE TO
RE-WRITE THE
DESTINY OF OUR
ENTIRE RACE!



END OF CHAPTER 1

JEKKA AMPHITHEATRE.

"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY!"

"EVERY SEAT IN
THE HOUSE FILLED..."

"...AND A LIVE
PLANETWIDE
BROADCAST FOR
EVERYONE ELSE!"

RATCHET:
MEDIC,
MISANTHROPE.

I HOPE
YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING, KID...

THAT'S RIGHT, OPTIMUS,
OLD BUDDY... *ALL OF CYBERTRON*
IS WATCHING ME TODAY!

US.

YES. WELL. CAN'T
SAY I EXPECTED *YOU*
TO BE HERE TODAY...

I MEAN, WE HAVE
PERFECTLY GOOD
PUBLIC DEFENDERS...

NEVER MIND THAT NOW,
SENTINEL... WHAT'S THIS "*SPECIAL*
PLAN" YOU SAID YOU HAD
FOR MEGATRON?

JUST LOOK--
HERE IT COMES
NOW!

CHAPTER 2

THE SECRET ORIGIN OF SARI SUMDAC

TEAM ATHENIA:
TRIAL SECURITY.

JETFIRE:
HOT-HEADED
TWIN OF
JETSTORM.

JETSTORM:
COOL-HEADED
TWIN OF
JETFIRE.



PRESENTLY...

MEGATRON OF TARN,
YOU STAND ACCUSED
OF CRIMES AGAINST
CYBERTRON AND
THE PLANET EARTH.

THE *AMNESTY* GRANTED
YOU AT THE END OF THE
GREAT WAR AFFORDS NO
PROTECTION AGAINST
THESE NEW CHARGES,
WHICH INCLUDE:

UNLAWFUL
INTERFERENCE IN
THE TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT OF
ANOTHER SPECIES...

BLASPHEMY IN THE
HIGHEST; THE *DESECRATION*
AND *DESTRUCTION*
OF THE ALLSPARK...

UNLAWFUL
ACQUISITION OF
AUTOBOT MILITARY
ASSETS AND CONSPIRACY
TO EMPLOY THEM IN
ACTS OF *INSURGENCY*...

...INCLUDING BUT NOT
LIMITED TO MURDER,
TREASON, AND
DESTRUCTION ON
A *PLANETARY*
SCALE...

AS WELL AS NUMEROUS SUNDRY
CASES OF FRAUD, THEFT, COERCION,
AND *PUBLIC INCITEMENT* TO ALL
OF THE AFOREMENTIONED.

HOW DO
YOU PLEAD?

NOT GUILTY.

"NOT GUILTY?"

"*NOT GUILTY*?!"

MY FELLOW CYBERTRONIANS!
WITH YOUR OWN AUDIO RECEPTORS,
YOU BEHOLD *FIRST-HAND* THE
UNAPOLOGETIC VILLAINY THAT
THREATENS OUR PLANET!

I, *SENTINEL MAGNUS*,
HAVE WORKED *DILIGENTLY* TO
GUARD CYBERTRON AGAINST
THESE DANGERS...

...BUT CERTAIN
NAYSAYERS HAVE
QUESTIONED MY
DECISIONS
OF LATE!

THROUGH THIS TRIAL, I INTEND TO
PROVE TO YOU ALL TODAY THE *VERY*
REAL THREAT POSED BY DECEPTICONS
LIKE THE ACCUSED...

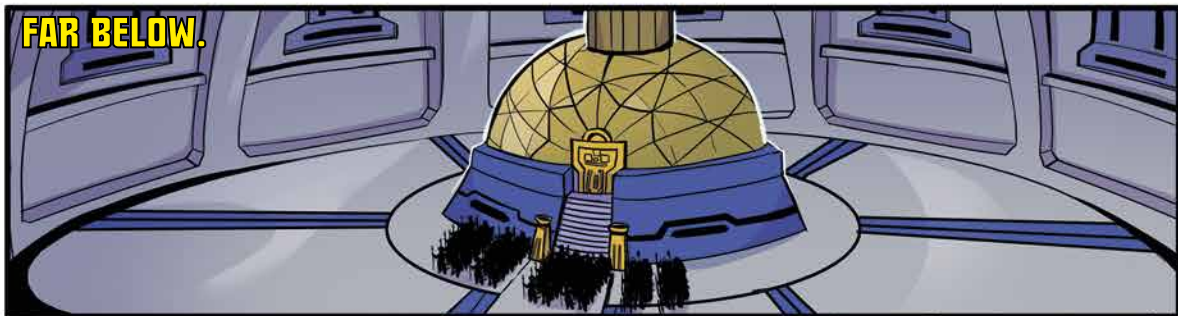
...AND THAT I AM *DEDICATED* TO
THE *PROTECTION* OF OUR WORLD, NO
MATTER HOW "*UNPOPULAR*" AN
OPINION THAT MAY BE!

DOES THE
DEFENCE HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY?

YES,
I -

THE *PROSECUTION*
CALLS ITS FIRST
WITNESS!

FAR BELOW.



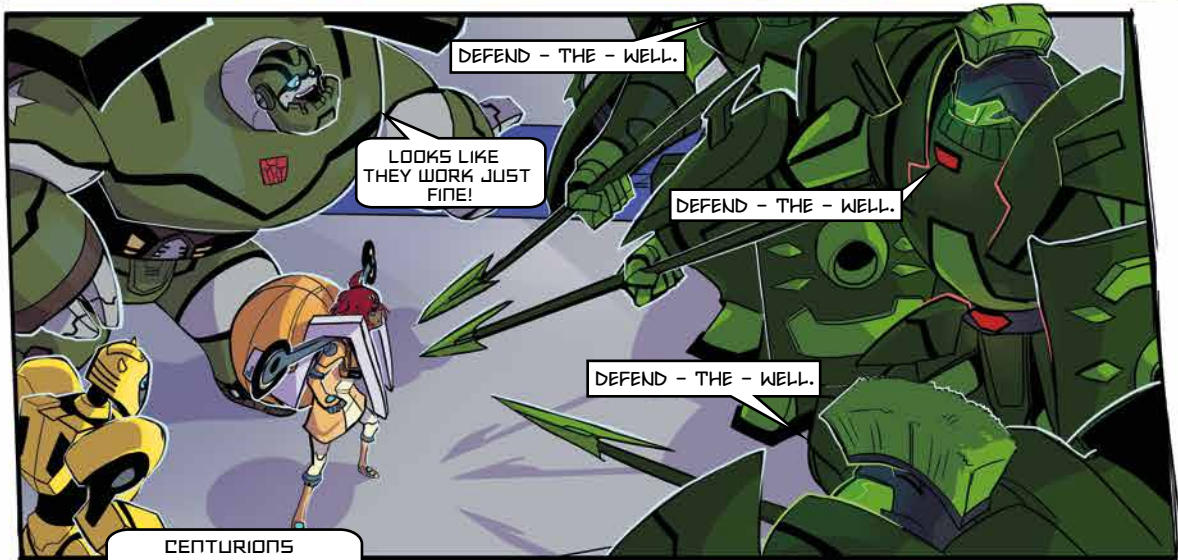
SARI,
DON'T--!

THEY AREN'T *MOVING*.
DO THEY EVEN STILL *WORK*
AFTER ALL THIS--?



DEFEND - THE - WELL..

...UH-OH.



DEFEND - THE - WELL..

LOOKS LIKE
THEY WORK JUST
FINE!

DEFEND - THE - WELL..

DEFEND - THE - WELL..



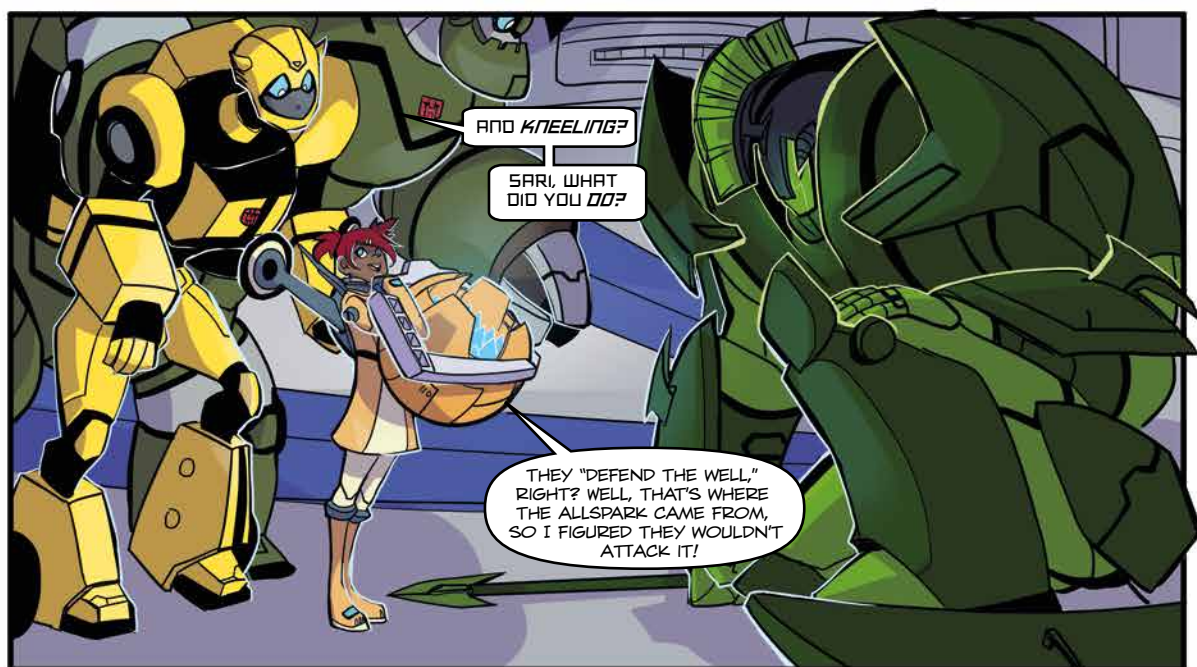
CENTURIONS
IN *FRONT* OF US,
PREDACONS *BEHIND*
US... WHAT DO WE *DO*?

I'VE
GOT AN
IDEA!

LET'S SEE
WHAT THESE GUYS
THINK ABOUT...



...THIS!





GRRK!

KA-POW

DEFEND - THE - BEARER.



DEFEND - THE - BEARER.

DEFEND - THE - BEARER.

GUESS THEY DON'T LIKE ANYONE MESSING WITH YOU WHILE YOU'RE *HOLDING* IT, EITHER!

GREAT! LET'S LEAVE *THEM* TO DEAL WITH THE *MONSTER SQUAD* AND GET BACK TO THE *SURFACE*!

NO! WE CAN'T!



WE...
I HAVE TO *FINISH* THIS.



THOSE DOORS! IT'S GOT TO BE BEHIND THERE!

COME ON!

MEANWHILE...

MEGATRON IZ
ZE VERY MODEL OV
NOBILITY.

HE IZ A *BRILLIANT*
GENERAL! A MASTER
OV *UNPARALLELED*
DEVAZATION!

AND ZUCH
A LOVELY
ZINGING VOICE!
HAHAHAHAHA!

THE LOGIC
OF MEGATRON'S
COURSE CANNOT
BE REFUTED.

IT WAS AT *HIS*
COMMAND THAT I
INFILTRATED THE
RANKS OF *AUTOBOT*
INTELLIGENCE.

MEGATRON WILL LEAD
US *ALL* INTO AN AGE OF
DECEPTICON DOMINION...

...AND THOSE WHO
RESIST WILL LOGICALLY
BE *CRUSHED.*

MY SPARK *BEATS*
FOR MEGATRON! HIS
WORD IS MY *WILL!*

I HAVE *ENDED*
CIVILIZATIONS IN HIS NAME!
HE HAS BUT TO *ASK*, AND
IT SHALL BE *DONE!*

*DEATH TO THE
AUTOBOTS! ALL HAIL
MEGATRON!*



EVENUALLY...

I THINK MY WITNESSES HAVE PAINTED *QUITE* THE PICTURE, YOUR HONOUR.

ARE THERE ANY WITNESSES FOR THE *DEFENCE*?

JUST *ONE*, YOUR HONOUR...



...THE DEFENCE CALLS *MEGATRON OF TARN*.



AND SO...

PEOPLE OF CYBERTRON...

YOU HAVE HEARD *MUCH* TODAY ABOUT THE SO-CALLED "EVIL" I HAVE SEEN DONE IN THE NAME OF THE DECEPTICONS...

...BUT DESTRUCTION FOR ITS *OWN SAKE* IS NOT THE DECEPTICON CAUSE. HAVE YOU NOT STOPPED TO ASK WHAT IT IS WE *SEEK*?

IT IS THE *RETURN* OF THAT AGE--THE RETURN OF CYBERTRON'S *GREATNESS*--THAT ALL I HAVE COMMANDED HAS BEEN IN PURSUIT OF!

"DESECRATION" OF THE ALLSPARK?

NAUGHT BUT THE DESIRE TO GIVE CYBERTRON ITSELF THE POWER TO *TRANSFORM*--TO *DEFEND* ITSELF!



MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, CYBERTRON WAS A *SHINING JEWEL* IN THE COSMOS, THE HEART OF A VAST EMPIRE!



A RETURN TO THE DAYS OF *EXPANSION* AND *COLONIZATION*, WHEN OUR WORLD WAS THE MOST *BEAUTIFUL* FORCE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE!



ALL I SEEK IS A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR MY RACE... AND FOR THAT, I AM STRIPPED OF MY DIGNITY AND BROUGHT BEFORE YOU THUS!



WHAT'S
WITH ALL THE
HUBBUB?

OH, NO...



JAZZ... YOUNG 'BOTS LIKE
ME, BUMBLEBEE, BULKHEAD... WE
WEREN'T *ONLINE* DURING THE WAR.

WE NEVER SAW ITS *HORRORS*
FIRST-HAND... UNTIL OUR MISSION
ON EARTH GAVE US A TASTE.

BUT MOST OF THE 'BOTS IN THIS
AUDIENCE... THEY'VE NEVER EVEN
SEEN A DECEPTICON IN PERSON BEFORE.
ALL THEY KNOW IS WHAT THEY'VE HEARD
IN THE *HISTORY TRACKS*...

...BUT *HERE AND NOW*,
WHAT MEGATRON'S SAYING
MAKES SENSE TO THEM.



ALL THE *SANCTIONS*
AND *CURFEWS* SENTINEL'S
PLACED CYBERTRON UNDER...



...ALL HE'S DONE IS
CREATE AN *ANGRY*
YOUNG POPULATION,
PERFECT FOR MEGATRON
TO *RADICALIZE* WITH
A FEW WELL-
CHOSEN WORDS.

THIS IS WHY
MEGATRON
WANTED ME
TO 'DEFEND'
HIM...

INNOCENT OR GUILTY,
WIN OR LOSE... *THIS* IS
HIS *FINAL VICTORY*...

...AND HE'S
MADE SURE I HAVE A
FRONT-ROW SEAT.



BELOW...

SLAAAM

HOPE THOSE
GUYS CAN HOLD
THEM OFF...

I GUESS THIS
IS IT...? DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE MUCH...

IT'S
SO DARK...

I CAN
FEEL IT...

...THE ALLSPARK
WANTS TO GO
HOME.



I... GUESS
THAT'S IT.

WHAT
DO WE DO
N--

VA-CHOOM

MY FRIENDS...
IT IS *GOOD* TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

PROWL?!

PROWL:
AUTOBOT NINJA;
DECEASED.

YOU HAVE
DONE A *GREAT*
THING, SARI...

...AND SO THE ALLSPARK
HAS ALLOWED ME TO BE
WITH YOU ALL ONCE MORE,
THAT I MAY GIVE YOU
YOUR *REWARD*.

THE *ANSWER*
TO YOUR QUESTION.





THE CRYSTAL IS
BUT THE *PHYSICAL*
EXPRESSION OF
THE ALLSPARK
IN THIS WORLD.

IN TRUTH, IT
IS A VAST *COLLECTIVE*
CONSCIOUSNESS THAT
EXISTS ACROSS ALL
OF SPACE AND TIME...

...A TRUE ALL-SPARK
THAT LINKS *EVERYONE*
AND *EVERYTHING* THAT
HAS EVER LIVED, OR
EVER *WILL* LIVE.

THE
ALLSPARK
KNOWS ALL.

THE
ALLSPARK
SEES ALL.


THE
ALLSPARK
SHARES ALL.

FROM ALLIES
AND ENEMIES PAST...

...TO
ADVENTURES
YET TO COME.

SARI!
I... I SEE
IT!

ME TOO!
I CAN SEE...
EVERYTHING!




FORESEEING THE KEY IMPORTANCE OF EARTH IN CYBERTRON'S FUTURE HISTORY, THE ALLSPARK DETERMINED TO CREATE AN *AVATAR* FOR ITS POWER...

...ONE THAT WOULD BRIDGE THE WORLDS OF *HUMAN* AND *TRANSFORMER*.




THUS IT WAS, SARI, THAT THE ALLSPARK REACHED *ACROSS TIME*...

...AND BY ITS *OWN POWER*, PLACED YOUR PROTOFORM IN YOUR FATHER'S LAB THAT NIGHT.



YOU BECAME THE ALLSPARK'S UNKNOWING *AGENT*, USING YOUR KEY AS A *CONDUIT* FOR ITS POWER...



...UNTIL YOU USED IT TO UPGRADE YOUR OWN BODY, AND BECAME THAT CONDUIT *YOURSELF*...

...AND BY YOUR ACTIONS, MOVED THE CONFLICT ON EARTH TO THE CONCLUSION THE ALLSPARK SOUGHT...

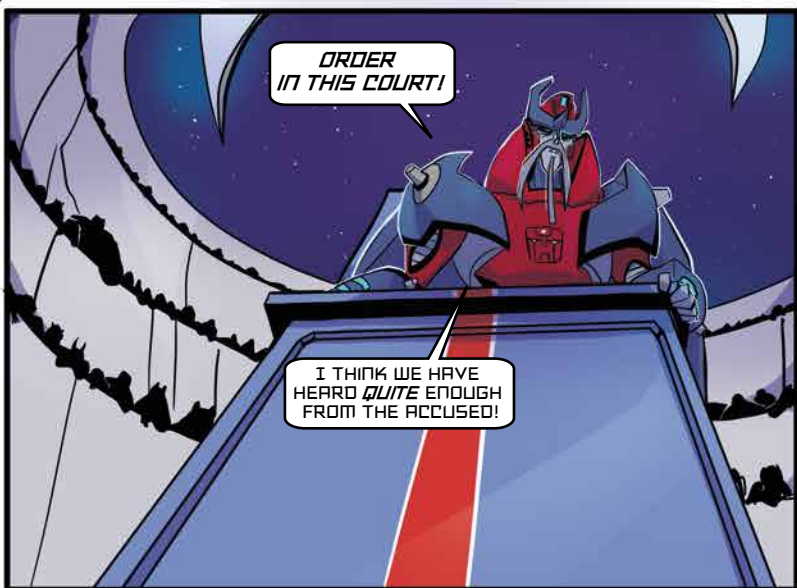
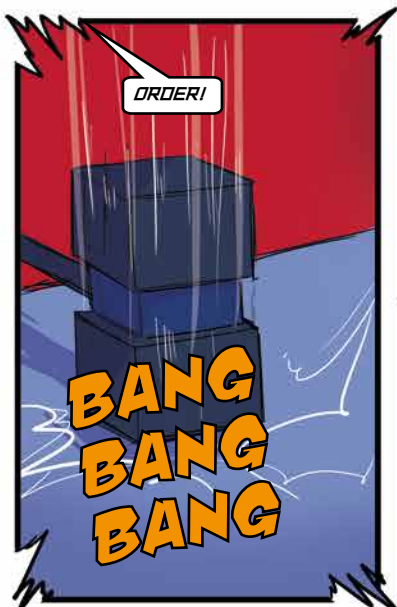


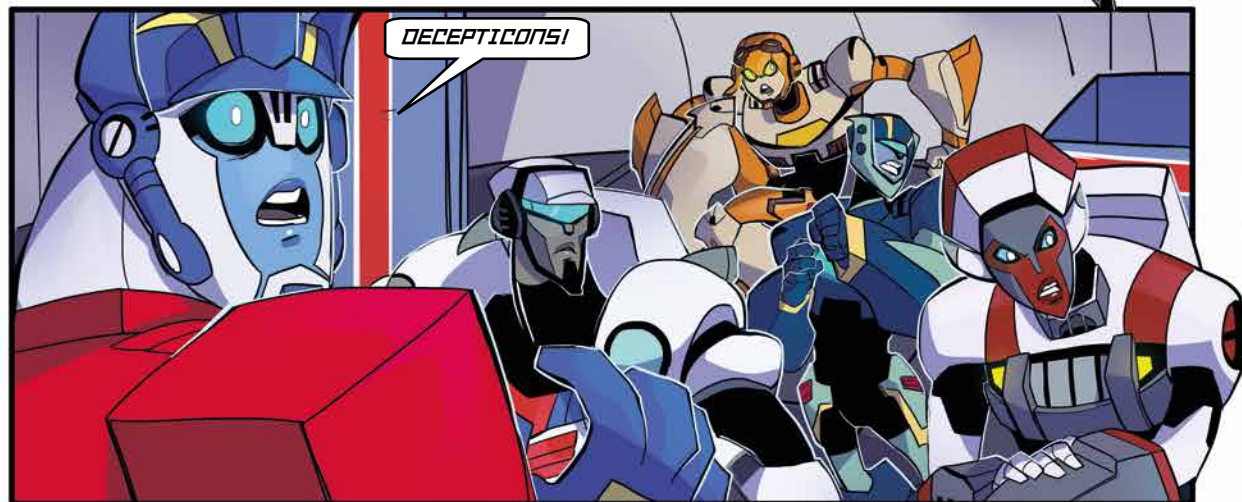
...TO *THIS* MOMENT.

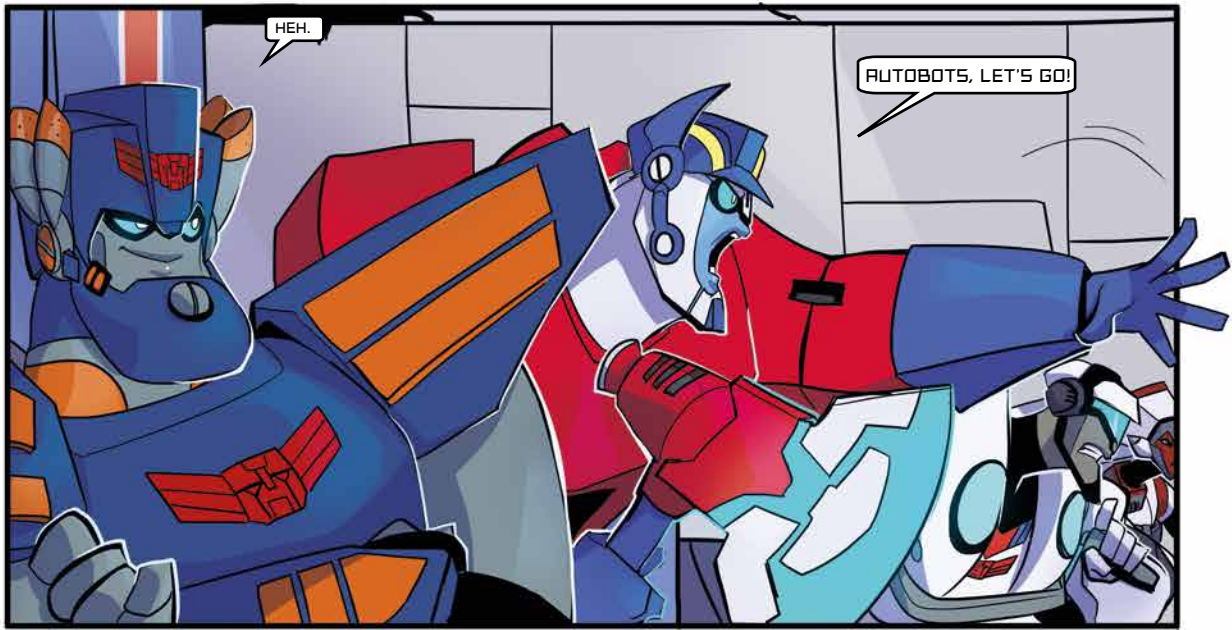
PROWL... YOU'RE FADING AWAY!

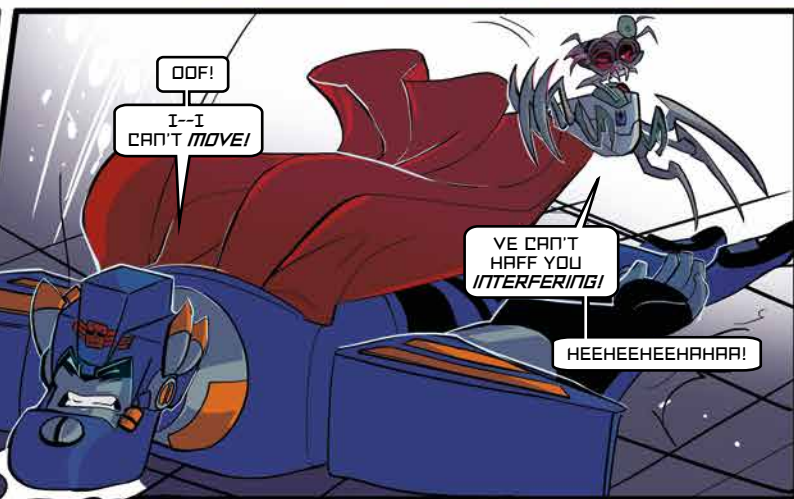
MY TIME WITH YOU IS *SHORT*. MY FRIENDS, THESE FEW MOMENTS HAVE BEEN A *GIFT* FROM THE ALLSPARK, AND I LEAVE YOU NOW TO *RE-JOIN* IT...

BUT SARI... THERE IS STILL *ONE LAST THING* THE ALLSPARK ASKS OF YOU...









OMEGA SUPREME.

COME ON, KID!

LOOK OUT,
ON YOUR LEFT!

THOSE
LOUSY, SNEAKY
DECEPTI-CRUMBS...!

IF I WAS THERE,
I'D TEACH 'EM A
THING OR TWO!

CYCLONUS:
TEAM CHAAR'S
SECRET WEAPON.

NO DECEPTICON'D
GET THE DROP ON ME!







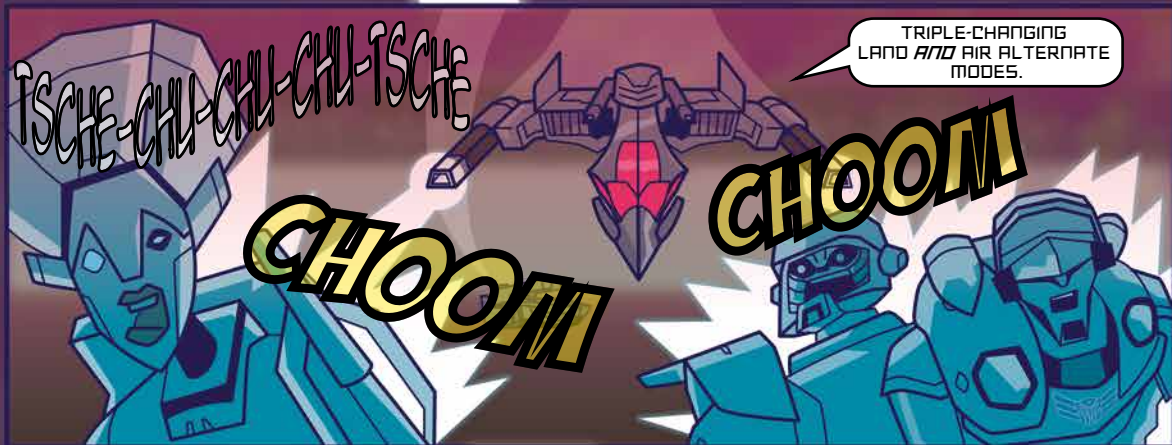
...YEEESS!

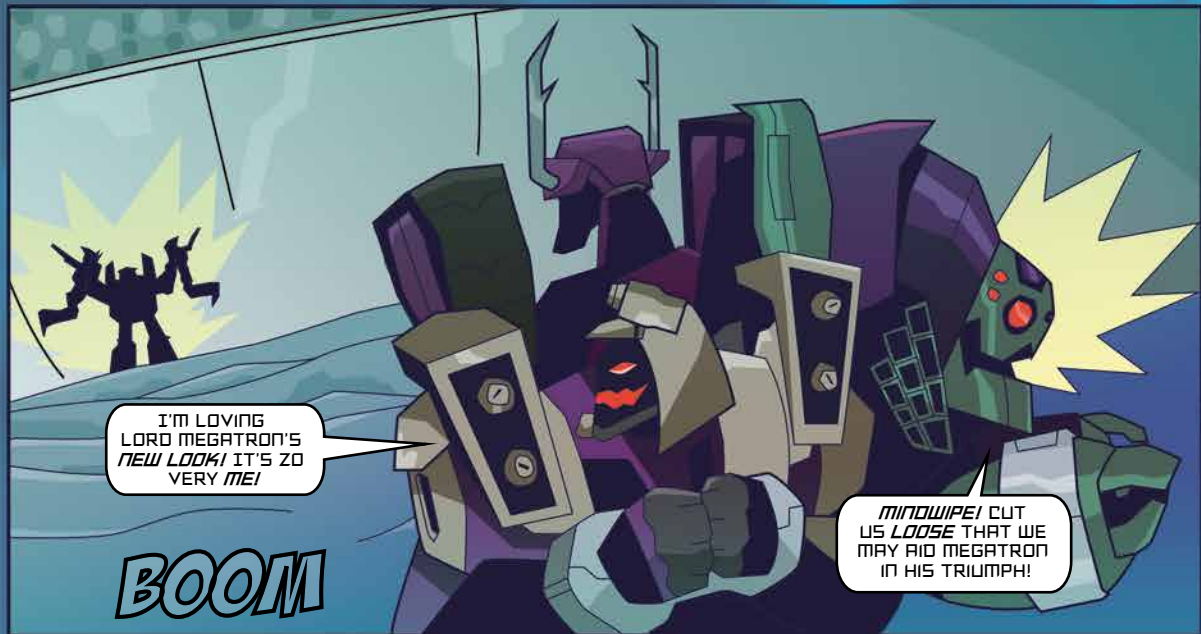
YOU HAVE
DONE *WELL*,
STRIKA...

VERY *WELL*!

END OF CHAPTER 2







I'M LOVING
LORD MEGATRON'S
NEW LOOK! IT'S SO
VERY ME!

BOOM

MINDWIPE! CUT
US LOOSE THAT WE
MAY AID MEGATRON
IN HIS TRIUMPH!



SLANG

BOOM



AT LAST! OH
GLORIOUS MEGATRON,
WE STAND READY
TO SERVE!

BOOM



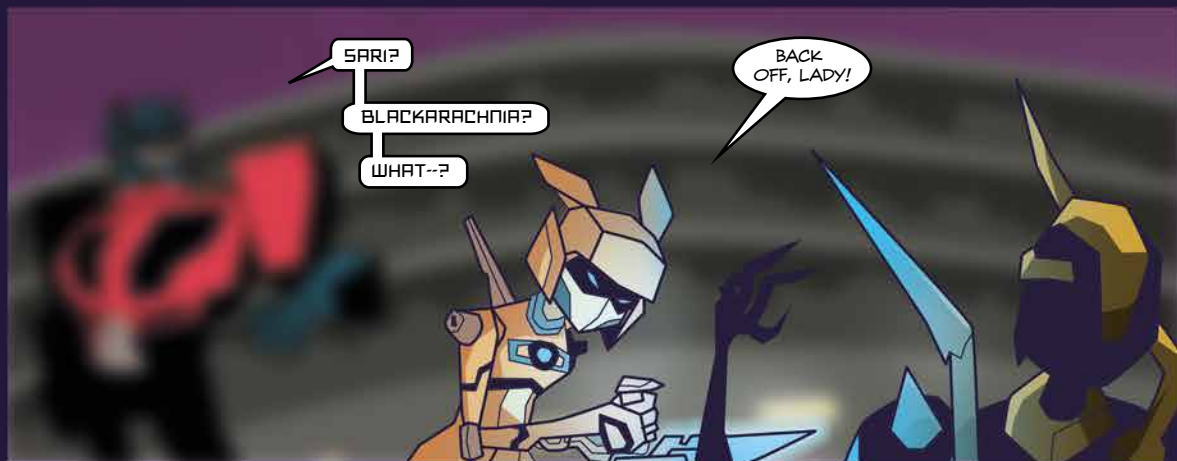
WAIT,
WHAT'S--?

BOOM



CHAPTER 3

MEGATRON MUST BE
DESTROYED!





"THE ALLSPARK KNOWS ALL."

"THE ALLSPARK SEES ALL."

"THE ALLSPARK SHARES ALL."



WELL, SENTINEL MAGNUS?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?



LET ME GET THIS *STRAIGHT*, DECEPTICON...

YOU WANT ME TO PROVIDE *YOU* WITH ACCESS CODES SO YOU CAN ENTER CYBERTRONIAN AIRSPACE *UNDETECTED*...

...SO THAT YOU CAN CRASH MEGATRON'S TRIAL AND *KILL* HIM? YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE--?

YOU *MUST*! THE DECEPTICONS WILL *NEVER* ACCEPT ME AS THEIR LEADER AS LONG AS MEGATRON STILL *LIVES*!

AND I SWEAR THAT ONCE THEY ARE MINE, WE SHALL MENACE CYBERTRON *NO MORE*!

BEFORE THE WATCHING EYES OF YOUR AUTOBOTS, YOU WILL BE A *SAVIOUR*!

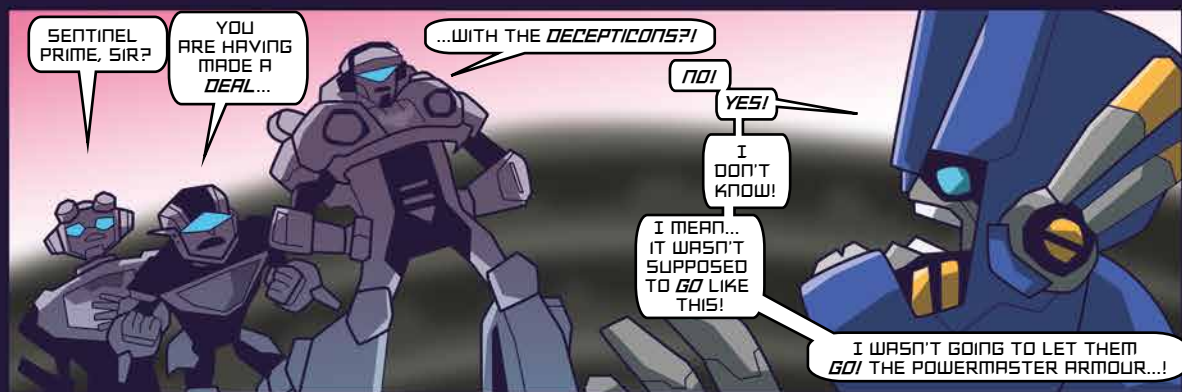


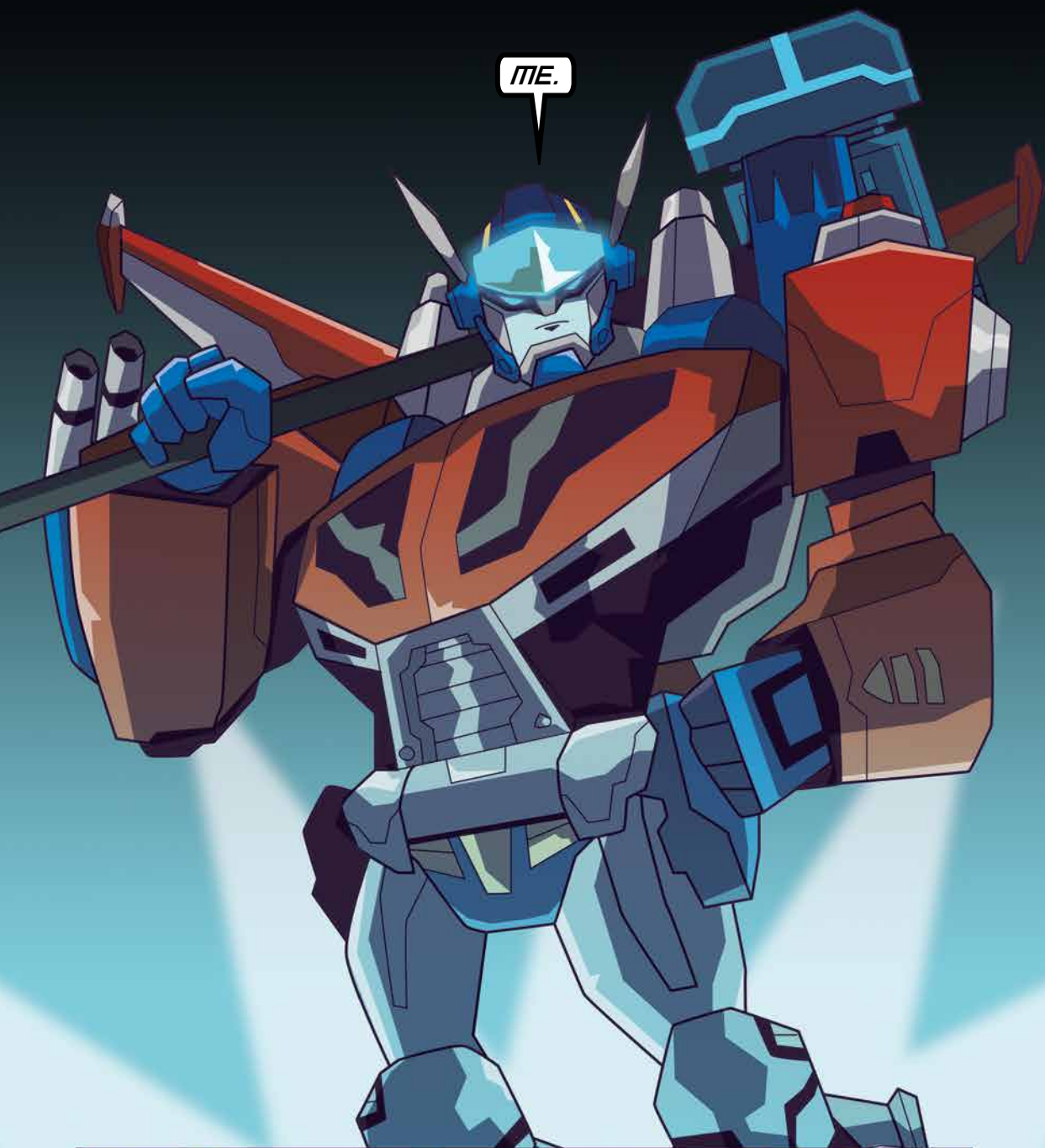
"A SAVIOUR"...?

DECEPTICON... YOU'VE GOT A DEAL!



SOME DEAL... BOTH OF YOU WERE PLANNING TO DOUBLE-CROSS EACH OTHER!







OH, STOP *POSTURING*.
HAVEN'T I SHOWN YOU THE
TRUTH HERE TODAY?

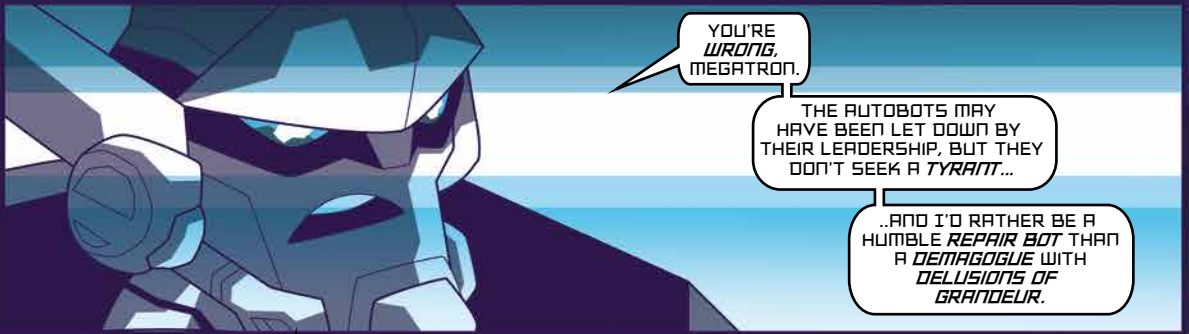
YOUR OWN *PEOPLE*
HAVE SPOKEN. THEY
ARE *TIRED* OF YOU
AND *ALL* YOU
REPRESENT!
ISOLATIONISM,
PETTINESS,
CORRUPTION... WHY
FIGHT FOR THAT?



INSTEAD, *SUBMIT* YOURSELF TO *ME*
AND I SHALL SEE CYBERTRON AND ALL
ITS SCATTERED CHILDREN UNITED!

THERE COULD BE A *PLACE*
FOR YOU IN MY KINGDOM,
AUTOBOT. THINK OF THE
GLORIES THAT WE
COULD ACCOMPLISH
TOGETHER...

...THE EMPEROR OF
DESTRUCTION AND HIS
LOYAL OPTIMUS
MAGNUS.



YOU'RE
WRONG,
MEGATRON.

THE AUTOBOTS MAY
HAVE BEEN LET DOWN BY
THEIR LEADERSHIP, BUT THEY
DON'T SEEK A *TYRANT*...

..AND I'D RATHER BE A
HUMBLE *REPAIR BOT* THAN
A *DEMAGOGUE* WITH
DELUSIONS OF
GRANDEUR.



YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A
THUG WITH A *BIG GUT* AND
AN *EMPTY IDEOLOGY*,
MEGATRON...



...AND
THIS TIME...

...I'M GOING TO
PUT YOU DOWN
FOR *GOOD*.



AUTOBOTS,
**ROLL
OUT!**

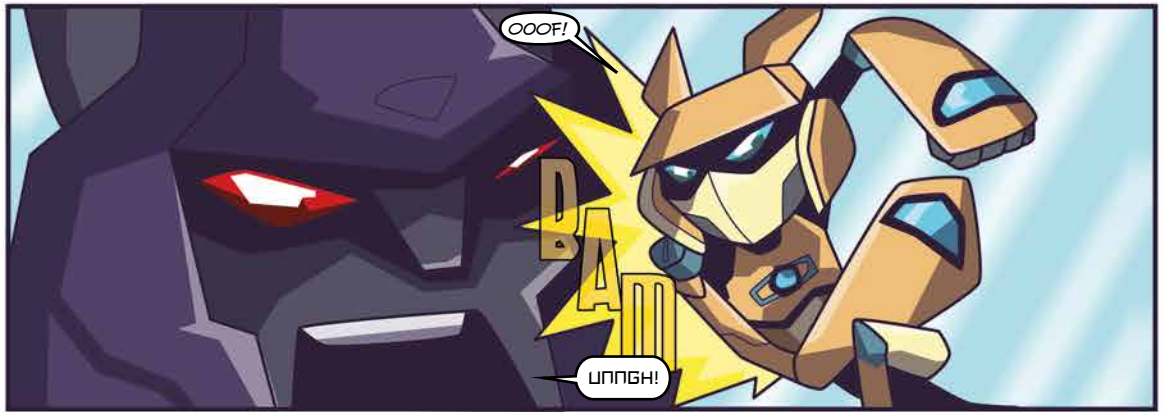
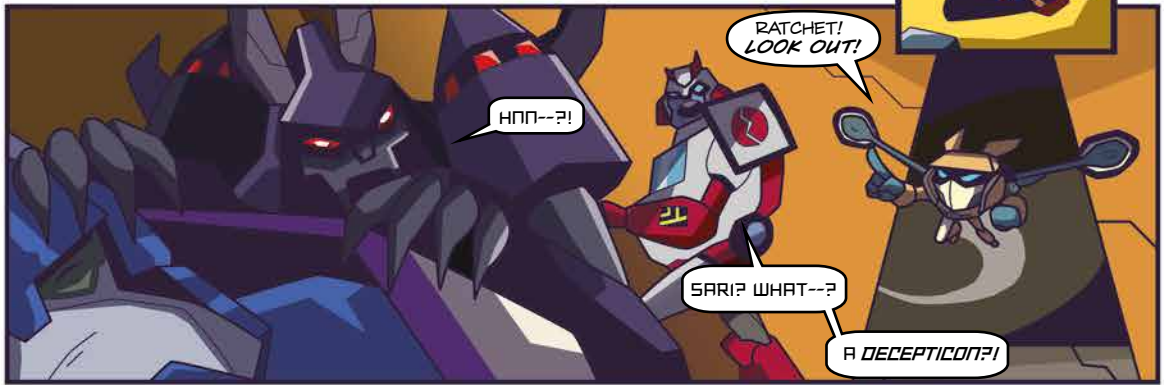




DECEPTICONS,
**RISE
UP!**

YOU *GOT* THIS,
OPTIMUS! I GOTTA
TAKE CARE OF *ONE*
LAST THING!

WAIT! COME *BACK!* YOU
DON'T UNDERSTAND THE *FUTURE*
I COULD *MAKE* WITH YOU!



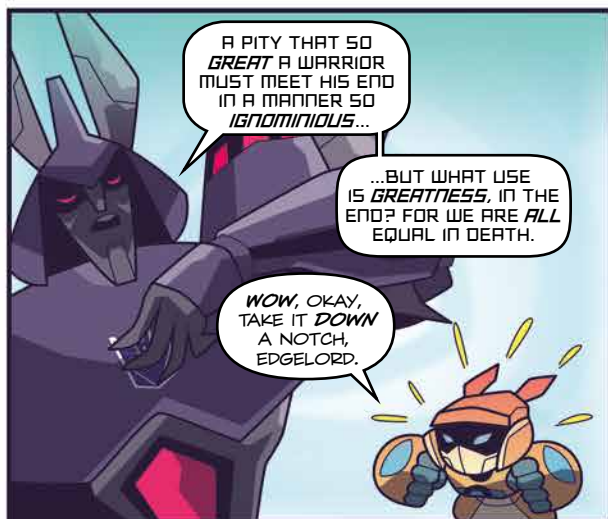


AND I DIDN'T THINK
SENTINEL COULD SINK
ANY *LOWER!*

SENDING A *DECEPTICON*
TO OFFLINE ULTRA MAGNUS?!



I COME AT THE BEHEST OF *NO*
AUTOBOT! SENTINEL MAGNUS HAS
MERELY SOWN THE *WIND*... NOW,
ULTRA MAGNUS SHALL
REAP THE *WHIRLWIND!*



A PITY THAT SO
GREAT A WARRIOR
MUST MEET HIS END
IN A MANNER SO
IGNOMINIOUS...

...BUT WHAT USE
IS *GREATNESS*, IN THE
END? FOR WE ARE *ALL*
EQUAL IN DEATH.

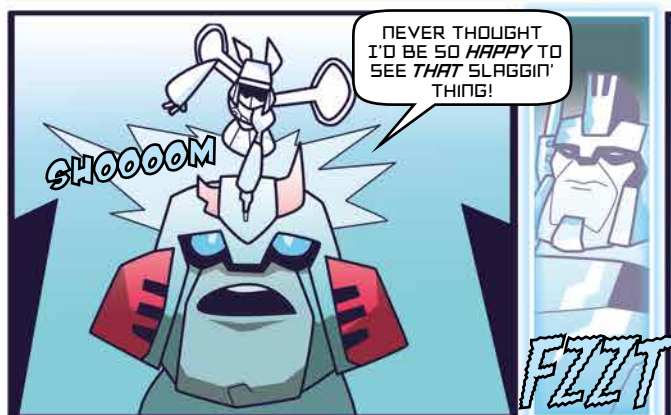
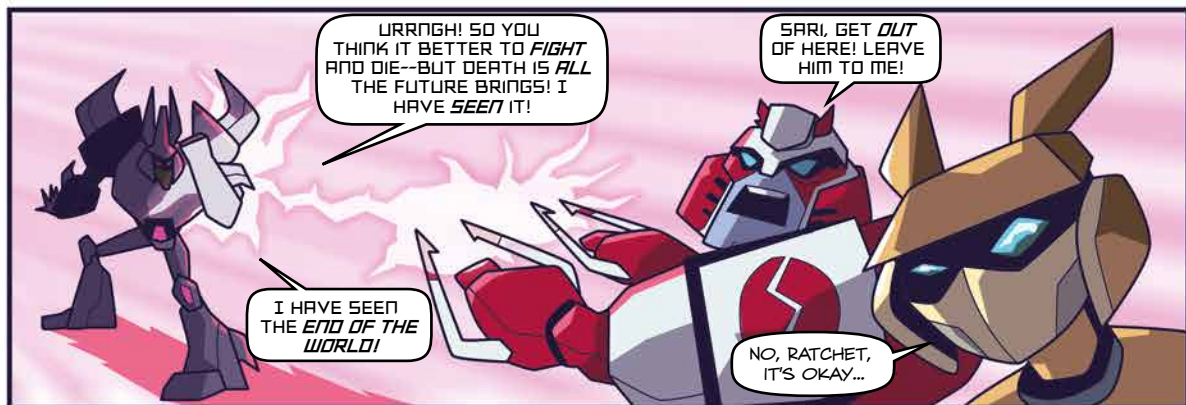
WOW, OKAY,
TAKE IT *DOWN*
A NOTCH,
EDGECLAW.

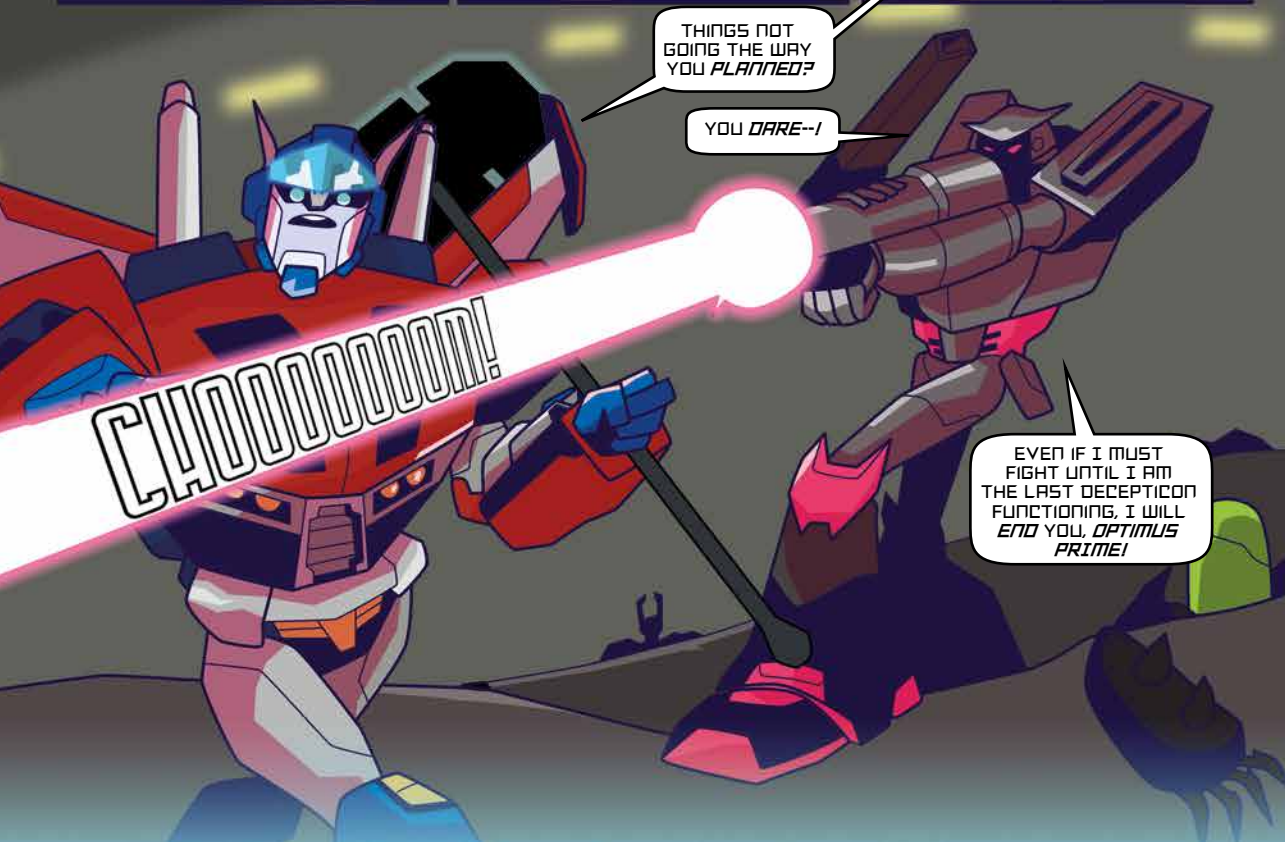
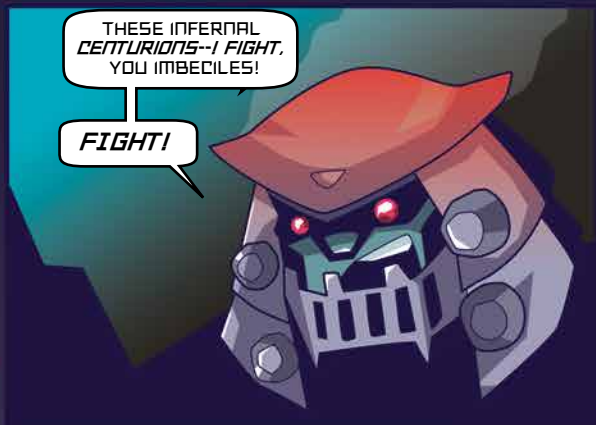
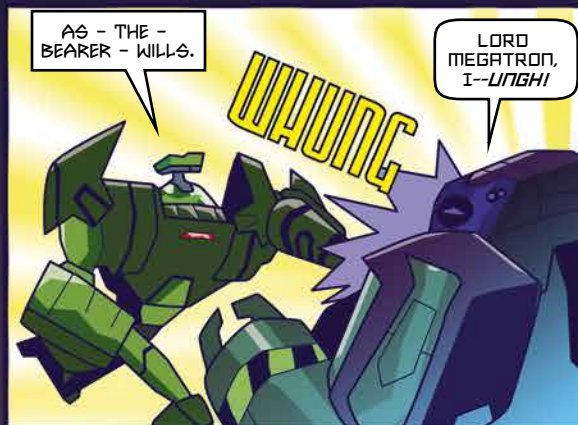


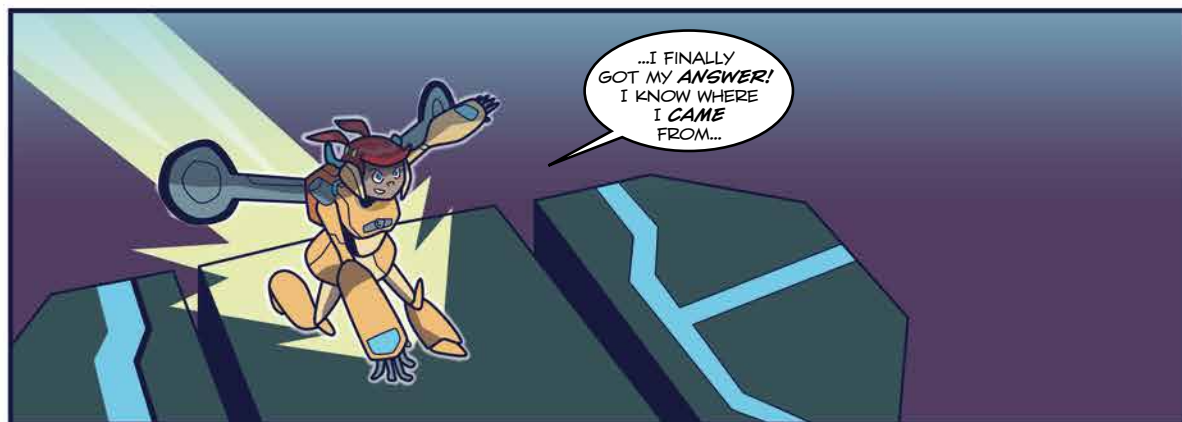
WELL, EVEN IF
SENTINEL *DIDN'T* SEND
YOU, IF YOU WANT
ULTRA MAGNUS...



...YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO GO
THROUGH *ME!*









THEN
YOU CAN
HAVE IT!

THRAANNING



EPILOGUE: SOME TIME LATER.

THE DECEPTICONS
DIDN'T LAST LONG
AFTER THAT...

"...WE ROUNDED MOST
OF THEM UP, AND
THEY'RE HARD AT
WORK IN THE
NUCLEON MINES."

"MEGATRON'S IN
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED,
WE THOUGHT THERE
MIGHT BE *PROTESTS*..."

"THEY'RE EVEN CALLING
SARI A *HERO!* SHE'S
VOLUNTEERED TO BE OUR
LINK TO THE ALLSPARK AS
IT STARTS TO BRING A
NEW BREED OF
SPARKS ONLINE..."

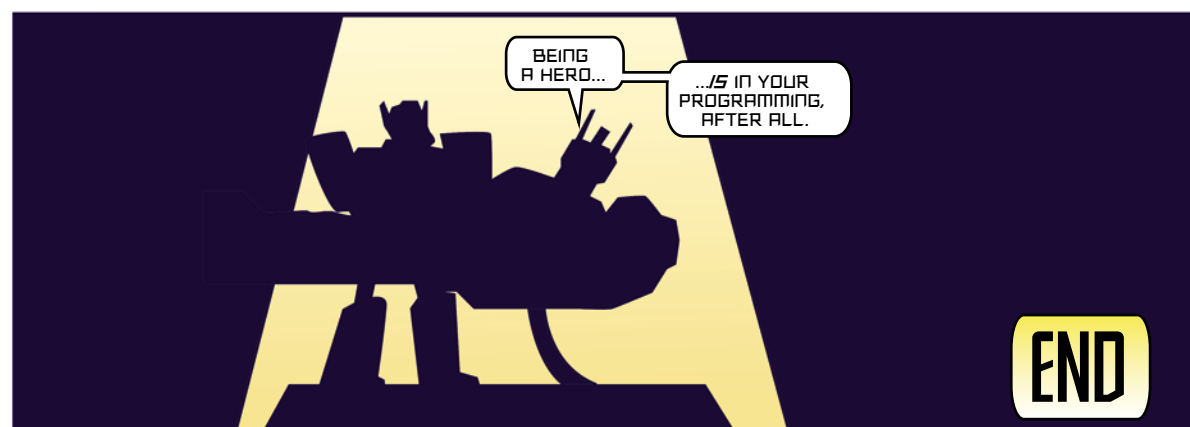
"...BUT IT TURNED OUT
THAT EVERYTHING THE
ALLSPARK SHOWED US
CONVINCED THE PEOPLE
HE *WASN'T* WHAT HE LED
THEM TO BELIEVE."

"...WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM HER FATHER, AND
THE GUIDANCE OF OUR
NEW *INTERIM MAGNUS*,
ALPHA TRION."

"HE DEMOTED
SENTINEL DOWN
TO *REPAIR 'BOT* AND
SENT HIM OFF TO FIX
SPACE BRIDGES WITH
A CREW OF HIS OWN!"

THERE WAS... SOME
TALK OF *ME* TAKING UP
THE HAMMER, BUT...

...I'M NO MAGNUS...



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***CHAPTER TWO
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***CHAPTER THREE
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